Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Joint Secretary to Government):*

(*a*) (1) Construction of rat-proof godowns and wharfs.
(2) Reclamation of an area in front of the wharfs.
(3) Construction of roads and drains

(*b*) The cost of acquiring the land alone is not available.

(*c*) The c st of acquiring the area with buildings according to the proposed scheme is estimated at Rs. 2·76 lakhs approximately for the 1st stage of the scheme.

(*d*) The prices of the important building materials at Cochin as per the departmental schedule of rates are given below. The same rates were prevalent in December, 1940 also.

	Rs.	A.	P.		
1. Laterite stones	9	12	9	per	100 Cft.
2. Machine-made brick 1st class	22	0	0	,,	1000 No.
3. Flooring tiles 9″ sq. 1st class	31	0	0	,,	,,
4. Roofing tiles do.	30	0	0	,,	,,
5. Ridge tiles 1st class	80	0	0	,,	,,
6. Lime	12	14	10	,,	100 Cft.
7. Cement	1	14	0	,,	Cft.
8. Clean river sand	2	15	0	,,	100 Cft.
9. Timber Teak	35	0	0	,,	candy
Irul	20	0	0	,,	,,
Pullamaradu	16	0	0	,,	,,
10. Granite rubble stones	6	15	4	,,	100 Cft.
11. 1¼″ granite metal	7	5	1	,,	,,

For iron materials no definite rate can be given due to the unsteady market condition. The rates have gone up twice and thrice even more than the pre-war level.

(*e*) Rs. 55,650 for the buildings in the 1st stage area alone.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* What has prevented the Government from carrying through this scheme?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Joint Secretary to Government):* The prohibitive cost. The first stage itself would cost 7½ lakhs.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* Are the Government aware that it is a self-supporting scheme and that the people were prepared to find the money themselves and carry on the work. What is the objection of the Government in allowing a Town Improvement Trust in carrying out this work by floating debenture loans?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Joint Secretary to Government):* That can be considered.

WOMEN SWEEPERS—EMPLOYMENT OF—MUNICIPALITIES, TOWN COUNCILS, ETC.

278. Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) the number of women sweepers employed by the Municipalities, Town Councils (when they existed), Panchayats and Public Health Department for sweeping public roads;

(*b*) if there are none, the reason;

(*c*) whether the Government of Travancore employs women sweepers also to sweep public roads?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Joint Secretary to Government):*

(*a*) There are 25 women sweepers employed by the Mattancheri Municipality and one by the Manalur Panchayat in the Panchayat Department.

(*b*) Does not arise.

(*c*) Government have no information.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* Cannot the Government give instructions to Municipalities other than Mattancheri to reserve a certain percentage of posts for employing women sweepers?

Mr. C. J. Mathew *(Joint Secretary to Government):* The Government have not objected to the appointment of women sweepers by any of the Municipalities in the State and they expect that the lead given by the Mattancheri Municipality will be followed by others.

PERCENTAGE OF CLERKS IN THE GRADE OF Rs. 40—60 AND ABOVE—CERTAIN DEPARTMENTS OF GOVERNMENT

279. Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) the names of the Departments in which the clerks in the grade of Rs. 40—60 and above are below 35 per cent of the total number of clerks after the re-organisation and general revision of pay in 1105 M.E.;

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